

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 57

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6—Relative to Darfur.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 27, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 6, Koretz. Darfur genocide.

This measure would express the sense of the Legislature with respect to matters surrounding the Darfur genocide and would request that the President and Congress of the United States continue to take all prudent and necessary steps to ensure that these matters are addressed at the highest levels of the federal government.

WHEREAS, Sudan's government and southern rebels have come to an historic, long-awaited agreement that ends Africa's longest civil war and brings hope to millions of exiled Sudanese yearning to return home; and

WHEREAS, Continued violence in the troubled region of Darfur, Sudan, previously described by the Bush administration as genocide, cast a shadow over the agreement, which does not cover the Darfur conflict; and

WHEREAS, Darfur, an area of 256,000 square kilometers constituting the western region of the Sudan, is home to an estimated five million people, a population made up of a complex tribal mix; and

WHEREAS, Large swathes of Darfur have been prone to drought and desertification, intensifying demands on its more fertile lands, making areas of Darfur subject to sporadic intertribal clashes over use of resources in recent decades; and

WHEREAS, The government of the Sudan appears to have sponsored a militia composed of a loose collection of fighters, apparently of Arab background, known as the "Janjaweed"; and

WHEREAS, With the active support of the regular army, the Janjaweed have attacked villages, targeting those suspected of supporting the rebels and committing numerous human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, The humanitarian consequences of the situation in Darfur are grave, with an estimated 70,000 innocent civilians brutally murdered, and according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, an estimated 1,600,000 people internally displaced, and more than 200,000 people forced from their homes and fleeing to neighboring Chad; and

WHEREAS, The government of the Sudan should, at the highest levels, publicly and unequivocally condemn all violations of human rights and

international humanitarian law, investigate those violations, and bring the perpetrators to justice; and

WHEREAS, The Janjaweed and other militias should be immediately disarmed and disbanded, and humanitarian workers must be given full and unimpeded access to Darfur; and

WHEREAS, Refugees and displaced persons should be permitted to return to their lands and homes voluntarily, and should receive restitution or fair compensation for their losses; and

WHEREAS, Fundamental human rights must be respected in times of peace and in times of armed conflict; and

WHEREAS, The Sudan is a party to several core human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That it is the sense of the Legislature of the State of California that the government of the Sudan should, at the highest levels, publicly and unequivocally condemn all actions and crimes committed by the Janjaweed, ensure that all militias are immediately disarmed and disbanded, and pursue a policy of national reconciliation, ending impunity and ensuring the rule of law and the protection of minorities; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the further sense of the Legislature that humanitarian workers must be given full and unimpeded access to Darfur in order to ensure that there is no blockage in the delivery of much-needed humanitarian assistance; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the further sense of the Legislature that the government of the Sudan should put in place measures to ensure that human rights abuses, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are not repeated in the future and that the rule of law is restored in Darfur in conformity with internationally agreed standards; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature respectfully requests that the President and Congress of the United States continue to take all prudent and necessary steps to ensure that these matters are addressed at the highest levels of the federal government; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the United States Secretary of State, and to the Secretary General of the United Nations.